



LA CIMA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Julie Valenzuela, Principal

Gayle Taylor, Assistant Principal

5600 N. La Cañada Dr. Tucson, AZ 85704

(520) 696-6730 • FAX (520) 696-6793

701 W. Wetmore Road • Tucson, AZ 85705 • (520) 696-5000 • www.amphi.com

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

SUPERINTENDENT
Todd A. Jaeger, J.D.

Deanna M. Day, M.Ed.
President

Vicki Cox Golder
Vice President

Scott K. Baker, Ph.D.

Matthew A. Kopec

Susan Zibrat

Good Morning La Cima Families,

This letter comes to you hoping you are all having a happy Holiday Season, despite the challenges we are yet again facing with our schools going back to Remote Learning by Necessity. I am sending you a couple items to assist with understanding our changes in Remote Learning by Necessity for January 2021, as we identified the need to increase screen time for students and teachers to ensure our students are getting the instruction and support they need for a more successful remote experience.

First is the daily schedule. You will notice that students will need to join their teacher's Zoom class each period, every day on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. They will receive direct instruction, as if they were in the classroom setting. The teacher will keep Zoom running throughout the period, after instruction is given, to provide students with immediate support, as needed. Each teacher will let the students know the specifics for their classroom regarding expectations while in Zoom and how to work on Google Classroom practice once the instruction has ended.

Wednesday's are also important, as every student will meet with their homeroom teacher for 45 minutes in the morning. This time is important in supporting our students' social/emotional needs; while helping with time management, organizational, and remote learning strategies and supports for success. The rest of the day will be spent on visiting Google Classroom's for each period, completing the attendance form, and checking to see what new lessons have been posted or to complete any outstanding assignments. Students can still reach out to teachers via Google Classroom, email, or phone if questions come up. If students do not participate in the Zoom meetings, they will be marked absent, as this is part of the remote expectation, just as not coming to school on in-person days resulted in an absence for that day.

Over the last few months, we have noticed a sharp decline in student participation when they are at home, as well as coming to in-person instruction. We know that many are fearful of the virus and due to that many parents have opted to keep students home. I am hoping that our attendance rate increases significantly over the next couple of weeks during remote learning and that we see a tremendous increase upon returning to in-person school (hopefully by January 19th). We have been very fortunate at La Cima that we have had very limited numbers of students testing positive and have had no school related exposures. All exposures have occurred outside of campus. We have been working diligently to keep our campus safe since we opened after Fall Break and will do the same when we return to in-person school again. We hope to see all our Cardinals return with us, as we miss them dearly when they do not attend.

Secondly is your child's second semester schedule. There may be some changes made once January 4th comes around, but when your child goes to their homeroom Zoom on January 4th, these changes will be shared with them.

Again, we really do understand this newest change will be received very differently by families in our community. We understand for some it will feel like a safer solution and for others it will add a lot of stress with children being home all day, every day. We only hope that by engaging students in their lessons throughout the day, this will help with this added burden. We ask that you highly encourage your child to participate in their education all day, every day as this is what we will use to determine readiness to move forward in the 2021-2022 school year, when hopefully this is all over and we can resume some normalcy in our lives.

Amphitheater High • Canyon del Oro High • Ironwood Ridge High
Amphitheater Middle School • Coronado K-8 School • Cross Middle School • La Cima Middle School • Wilson K-8 School
Copper Creek Elementary • Donaldson Elementary • Harelson Elementary • Holaway Elementary • Innovation Academy • Keeling Elementary
Mesa Verde Elementary • Nash Elementary • Painted Sky Elementary • Prince Elementary • Rio Vista Elementary • Walker Elementary • Rillito Center

Amphitheater Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion/religious beliefs, gender, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, creed, citizenship status, marital status, political beliefs/affiliation, disability, home language, family, social or cultural background in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies are handled at 701 W. Wetmore Road, Tucson, Arizona 85705 by David Rucker, Equity & Safety Compliance Officer, (520) 696-5164, drucker@amphi.com, or Kristin McGraw, Executive Director of Student Services, (520) 696-5230, kmcgraw@amphi.com.

As always, we truly appreciate your continued support. I am very fortunate to have such an amazing community of families. Your positive comments, support and encouragement have kept us going during these challenging times, as have the many conversations with concerned parents have allow for us to make the best decisions we can to take care of as many people as possible. For that I am truly grateful.

Once again, Happy Holidays. Stay safe and stay healthy. **Our offices will be closed from December 18th at 3:30 p.m. and will reopen on January 4th at 7:30 a.m.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Valenzuela". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Julie Valenzuela
Principal